U.S. PATENT NO. 6,406,023

Title: BLACKJACK GAME EACH PLAYER

Issued: June 18, 2002

HAVING MULTIPLE HANDS

Filed: January 27, 2000

Inventor: Richard ROWE

ISSUED CLAIMS:

1. A method useable for playing a card game comprising: receiving at least a first wager;

randomly dealing, to at least a first player, a first predefined number of cards, at least some of said first predefined number of cards having different values and defining at least first and second different hands wherein at least one of said predefined number of cards is in both said first and said second hands, and wherein said first predefined number of cards comprises four cards arranged in a two-by-two array defining straight lines of cards, said first hand comprising a pair of cards parallel to card rows of said two-by-two array, and said second hand comprising a pair of cards in diagonal relation to said card rows of said two-by-two array; and

evaluating the game outcome at the end of a round of play wherein said evaluating includes at least said first and said second hands and wherein at least a first prize is associated with said outcome only if both said first hand and said second hand are of at least first winning hand types.

- 2. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising receiving, from said player, an indication of a decision whether to receive additional cards in each of said hands.
- 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising dealing at least two cards to define a dealer hand.
- 4. A method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising awarding a highest prize only if a second predetermined number of said hands has a total value, evaluated according to blackjack card valuation, less than 22 but greater than the blackjack valuation of said dealer hand.

- 5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of evaluating comprises evaluating each of said hands as a blackjack hand.
- 6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of evaluating includes evaluating each said hand as a poker hand.
- 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising awarding a highest prize only if all of said hands provides a total value, calculated according to blackjack evaluation, of 21.
- 8. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising: performing an instant win based on said predetermined number of initially dealt cards for a predefined winning combination and awarding a prize if said instant win evaluation indicates a winning combination.
- 9. The method of claim 1 in which said game is played by electronic apparatus.
- 10. A method useable for playing a card game comprising: receiving at least a first wager;

randomly dealing, to at least a first player, a first predefined number of cards, having different values, in an array defining at least two straight lines of cards, said straight lines of cards respectively defining first and second different hands, where at least one of the cards is in both said first and said second hands; and

evaluating the game outcome at the end of a round of play, whereby said evaluating includes at least said first and second hands and wherein at least a first prize is associated with said outcome only if both said first hand and said second hand are of at least winning hand types.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of receiving from said player an indication of a decision whether to receive additional cards in each of said hands.

- 12. The method of claim 10 in which said straight lines of cards are at least three cards in length.
- 13. The method of claim 10 in which at least one of said straight lines of cards is parallel to rows of cards in square array and at least one of said straight lines of cards is diagonal thereto.
- 14. The method of claim 10 in which an added card which is in non-linear relation with said straight lines may be added to both said first and second hands.
- 15. The method of claim 10 further comprising dealing at least two cards to define a dealer hand.
- 16. The method of claim 10 in which said step of evaluating comprises evaluating each of said hands as a blackjack hand.
- 17. The method of claim 10 in which said step of evaluating comprises evaluating each said hand as a poker hand.
- 18. The method of claim 10 further comprising an instant win from said predefined number of initially dealt cards for a predefined winning combination, and awarding a prize if said instant win evaluation indicates a winning combination.
- 19. The method of claim 10 in which said game is played by electronic apparatus.